Premature release/remission of women prisoners

1758. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central and State Governments have been approached to consider premature release or remission of sentence of women prisoners who are suffering from serious ailments and also release such women prisoners who are above 60 years of age and have served a major part of their sentence;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the year 2001 has been earmarked as the year of Empowerment for Women; and

(c) if so, what is reaction of the Central Government so that the State Governments could follow-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) As per the information received from the National Commission for Women, a Member of the Commission approached the State Government/Union Territories to consider the premature release of women prisoners who are above 65 years of age.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 'Prisons' is a State subject, as per entry 4 of List II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. It is, therefore, for the State Governments to take a view in the matter.

Harassment of Tourists by Immigration Officials

1759. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report published in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated 2nd November, 2001 under the caption "Off loaded for not looking like a tourist";

(b) if so, facts of the incident; and

(c) the steps to check corrupt practices and incidents of harassment of genuine tourists/ passengers by the immigration officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.